

The Case for Grace by Lee Strobel

Discussion questions taken from the Discussion Guide included in the book.

Chapter 1: The Mistake

1. In your opinion, what makes a great father? What are the top three traits of a terrific dad?
3. Author of the book *Sin Boldly*, Cathleen Falsani, writes: Justice is getting what you deserve. Mercy is not getting what you deserve. And grace is getting what you absolutely don't deserve. Let's explore and compare the differences between justice, mercy, and grace.
10. How significant are words of affirmation, appreciation, and affection to children growing up? How were you impacted by hearing or not hearing them?

Chapter 2: The Orphan

2. What aspect of Stephanie Fast's story stands out in your mind? What had the most impact on you and why?
5. What are some of the lasting repercussions or consequences of low self-esteem? To what extent can you relate to Stephanie's spiral of negative self-talk?
12. Given Stephanie's emotional baggage and physical ailments, and the level of sacrifice required to care for her, how do you explain why David and Judy Merwin selected her as the one to adopt?

Chapter 3: The Addict

9. What's the difference between "religion" and "faith"? How can religion be an obstacle for spiritual growth and discovery?
19. What's your assessment: Do most Christians hate the sin and the sinner?
21. "Where sin increased, grace increased all the more." (Romans 5:20) How do you interpret this verse?

Chapter 4: The Professor

4. Why do you think there are so many different religions in the world? Do you think that all religions are basically the same?
7. How would you define "sin"? What does Hazen mean when he suggests that society "lost the concept of sin"?
10. Hazen contends that a clear understanding of grace starts with a clear understanding of sin. How does the awareness of one's sin contribute to a fuller, more robust appreciation of grace?

Chapter 5: The Executioner

11. If you were one of the few S-21 survivors, how difficult would it be for you to forgive Duch?
16. How could God possibly offer forgiveness and eternal life to a person who commits heinous criminal acts like Pol Pot, if he merely asks for forgiveness?
18. Discuss "If some sins are unforgivable, then Jesus's mission fell short."

Chapter 6: The Homeless

2. Philip Yancey wrote "Grace means that there is nothing we can do to make God love us more...and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less." What does this say about God's love?

9. Do you think it's possible to break destructive patterns without God?

11. Do you have a strategy for how you handle being approached by a homeless person asking for money? Let's discuss the homelessness in the city of Austin. Does this chapter give you pause as to how we should treat those homeless we encounter?

Chapter 7: The Pastor

6. C.S. Lewis wrote, "Pride is the mother hen under which all other sins are hatched." Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." In what ways are these statements true?

7. Brad struggled with entitlement issues. What does this entail and what are the dangers associated with this attitude?

15. Is it possible or necessary to forgive someone who is unwilling to admit or apologize for his or her wrongdoing? Should we forgive people even if they are not sorry they harmed us?

Chapter 8: The Prodigal

6. Andrew turned from his Christian heritage. What prompts a child to spurn the values of their parents? To what extent are parents responsible for their children when it comes to spiritual matters?

12. What's your assessment of what happened when Andrew was asked if he was a follower of Satan? What do you suppose this person saw in Andrew that made him think he was devoted to the devil?

20. Andrew said: "Repentance is the rebel's only path to God." How do you define repentance? Is it more than just feeling sorry for what you've done?

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
2 Peter 1:2